

## **Laurens County**

### **1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- New jobs and business
- Quality of life
- Opportunities
- Choices
- Industrial development
- "Blue chip industry"
- Real estate cycle
- Business- having well-rounded productive citizens with leadership qualities
- Parents- keeping their educated children in Laurens County
- Educators- having the entire community understand the importance of education and supporting
- Jobs- better paying
- Higher standard of living
- Prosperity
- Lower crime rate
- Attract and keep college graduates
- Parental involvement

### **2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Fully fund education
- Decrease the "many masters" educators must serve (SDE, EOC, NCLB etc.)
- Emphasis on reading
- Focus on early childhood education
- Full time pre-K programs for all students
- Facilities
- Teachers
- Funding
- Equal emphasis and increased awareness of technical opportunities
- Parenting training
- More summer programs
- More trained student involvement
- Work Together (businesses, educators, legislators) - it doesn't work when only teachers feel the need to be more accountable for their actions in the classrooms
- More parental involvement
- Support for educators
- Parental accountability
- More parent educational opportunities

#### **Strengths:**

- Hometown feel

#### **Challenges:**

- Transportation

- Need to see the value
- Must see the need
- Believe
- Wheel of misfortune
- The desire
- Need to celebrate our success
- We have a history of not needing an education- "Mill Village Mentality"
- Family and economic support- health insurance

**3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- Mentors
- Teacher Cadet
- All day opportunities- LINKS
- Parenting programs
- First Steps
- CHAMPS/ CIS
- Business partners
- Sheriff Department (SRO's) and DARE
- STW program
- Career day/ Ed Op
- ATEC programs
- Civic organizations
- YMCA
- County to recruit services- i.e Sylvan Learning Centers
- "Reading Camp"

**4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**

- Provide transportation for parents to attend meetings
- Be advocates for higher expectations and learning